

**INSIDE
THIS
WEEK:**



MotorFest
cancelled for
second year



World's a
stage for
Bard winner

COMMUNITY SCHEME IS ALL STITCHED-UP!

Sewing Rooms social enterprise to help drive ambitious plan for new businesses to prosper

SKELMERSDALE-BASED social enterprise, The Sewing Rooms, which trades with the aim of improving the health and wellbeing of the communities they work with, is to help deliver an ambitious plan to support new start up and existing businesses in West Lancashire to grow over the next two years.

The Sewing Rooms, based at Gardiners Place, has joined up to the scheme which will offer business start up and growth support to more than 200 firms in Lancashire.

The new programme is called DRIVE and will offer bespoke support to organisations and at no cost to individuals as it is funded by the European Development Fund with support from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The partnership bid is headed up by Social Enterprise Lancashire Network, Selnet.

Report by **Henry James**

Paula Gamester and Maureen Fazal from The Sewing Rooms, who are both qualified business advisors said: "We're so pleased to have been part of this successful funding bid and we are here to help get business moving in West Lancashire and help turn good business plans into business for good."

"We will spend up to two days supporting you and your team to increase the chances of your business thriving and surviving. The support on offer could include explaining the basics of business if you've decided to work for yourself for the first time, perhaps linking you with potential partners or helping with market research so that an existing business can grow or advise on moving premises and taking on more staff. Cont. on page 3



The presentation of the award by HRH Princess Royal to Dr. Alan Wall

Princess Royal presents medal to Merchant Navy man

AN Ormskirk man has received a Merchant Navy Medal for Meritorious Service in recognition of his work in maritime education and safety.

Alan Wall, who attended Greetby Hill School and Ormskirk Grammar School, was presented with the recognition by Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal at a ceremony on Tuesday, June 29 at Trinity House, which is next to the Tower of London.

Continued inside

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Test runs of new £500m trains are right on track!

Report by Henry James

TESTING of the new, "start of the art" trains for the Liverpool City Region has moved to the next level after they were rolled out onto the Merseyrail network last week.

The £500m fleet aims to be the greenest and most accessible in the country and will be the only trains in the country to be publicly owned.

Metro Mayor Steve Rotherham's has said they are a key part of his plans for a London-style transport network that seeks to make it as quick, easy, and reliable for people to travel around the region by taking greater local control of public transport and linking different modes of transport together.

With more than 17,000 hours already on the clock, a further seven trains already at Kirkdale depot will be put through their paces with dynamic testing taking place on the Northern Line, while the current trains are also running. All the new trains will be dynamically tested before they enter service.

Although the new trains will be stopping at every station, passengers are strongly reminded that they can't board and should stand clear on platforms for safety reasons.

Steve Rotherham, Metro Mayor of the Liverpool City Region said: "It's fantastic to see that our new fleet of £500m publicly-owned trains are going on to the next phase of testing. I know people will be as excited as I am to get them on the tracks."

"These trains will be the most cutting edge and accessible anywhere in the country and a real statement of intent on the future of transport in our region."

"They are a key part of my vision for a London-style transport system that makes it quick, cheap and reliable for people to get about."

The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority is replacing the current 40-year old fleet with new



One of the new trains at Sandhills station

trains being purchased from Swiss manufacturer Stadler.

Andy Heath, managing director at Merseyrail, said: "This is a significant step forward in the introduction of the new fleet onto the Merseyrail network and gives our customers the opportunity to see the trains in person as vital testing is completed."

"It's pleasing that we are moving closer to welcoming our passengers onto these new state-of-the-art trains, which will transform journeys across the Liverpool City Region with new features including more room for passengers and sliding step technology offering step-free access to the trains."

Marcus Barnes, senior sponsor for Network Rail, added: "It's really exciting to see the next phase of testing underway which means passengers are a step closer to benefitting from the brilliant new trains."

Although this phase of testing marks the next milestone in the wider programme, details regarding the phased introduction of the trains into service are yet to be confirmed.



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THE SEWING ROOMS

Sewing Rooms to help drive new business scheme forward for the good of the community

From page 1

"Alternatively, you may need to consider changes to your products and services in the post-Covid world."

In addition, The Sewing Rooms will be arranging a series of masterclasses with expert speakers to guide participants through common business hurdles such as finance, administration and marketing/social media and business resilience.

The Sewing Rooms offer bespoke training workshops and a manufacturing department that makes soft furnishings, accessories and bespoke upholstery for private and corporate clients.

They do "business by putting people and the planet first." They reinvest the money that their business makes into the communities around them.

For more information on the new scheme, call Karen Parker on 01695 550772 or email karen.parker@the-sewing-rooms.co.uk



Paula Gamester (right) is show with her co-director Maureen Fazal

Ruby's made of the 'write stuff'- youngster chosen as winner of One Show's Shakespeare competition

by Henry James

A TEENAGER from Skelmersdale has proved she is made of the 'write stuff' after her play was chosen as one of the three winners of a national competition organised by The One Show and The Shakespeare North Playhouse.

The play written by Ruby Heywood, aged 14, will now be performed in 2022 at the new Shakespeare North Theatre which is currently being constructed in Prescot.

Ruby's entry is called All the World's a Stage. It is set in Liverpool and is a comedy. The work is about the relationship between a schoolgirl and her imaginary friend, who is called William Shakespeare.

At the end of last month, Ruby and her family travelled to London, where she was told that she had won the 'As You Write It - Your Play On Stage' competition.

Ruby, who is in Year nine at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Engineering College, received

World's a stage for Skem schoolgirl after wowing TV judges with her play



A computerised image of how the Shakespeare North Playhouse will look

messages of congratulation from Sir Ian McKellen and Lin Manuel Miranda.

Young people had been invited to write a 30 minute play. More than 1,300 children and young people initially put their ideas forward. An expert panel of judges chose the top three entries per age group.

The nine finalists then had the chance to be mentored by industry experts.

The judges included The One Show presenter Alex Jones, chil-

dren's author Frank Cottrell-Boyce, award winning playwright Nessah Muthy, and director and writer Jude Christian. They decided on three winners - one for each age category.

Ruby's play was selected for its originality of ideas and for the way it could be adapted on the stage.

Her parents Emma and Allan Heywood said: "We are really proud of her and wanted to make a big deal of her achievement. We live in Skelmersdale, and we think it's great that somebody local to the area has managed to win this."

Alison Knight, headteacher of Our Lady's, commented: "Everyone in Our Lady's is delighted and extremely proud of Ruby on this wonderful achievement. Her exceptional talent, skill, imagination and hard work have rightly been recognised and she fully deserves her success."



Ruby Heywood with her framed award

Adult Community Services rated as 'Good' by inspectors

ADULT community services in West Lancashire have been rated 'Good' overall by the Care Quality Commission.

These services are run by Virgin Care in partnership with NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group.

Michelle Lee, managing director of Virgin Care in Lancashire, said: "At Virgin Care we are proud to change people's lives by transforming health and care, and this is the perfect

testament to the work that has been carried out over the past four years to make such a positive difference to the West Lancashire community.

"Our teams work incredibly hard to provide high quality care to people in West Lancashire and their commitment has never wavered throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, where they have demonstrated such professionalism and

resilience. I am thrilled that our inspirational health professionals have received this well-deserved recognition."

The report gave 'good' ratings for being safe, effective, caring and well led, and an 'outstanding' rating for being responsive.

The services were applauded for working closely with partners in the West Lancashire Integrated Care Partnership, including using a population management tool to identify patients at high risk of missing out on care.

Inspectors highlighted projects that have helped change people's lives, including the pulmonary rehabilitation programme that is delivered in the community where there are a high number of patients with respiratory conditions. They recognised the 'innovative' approaches taken to providing pathways of care, involving other service providers, particularly for people with multiple and complex needs.

Royal recognition for Merchant Navy man

From page 1

The presentation was delayed from November because of Covid and there were 17 medal recipients.

The Merchant Navy Medal for Meritorious Service is given to those who are serving or have served in the Merchant Navy and fishing fleets of the UK, Isle of Man or Channel Islands for exemplary service and devotion to duty, rewarding those who have set an outstanding example.

After leaving school, Mr Wall, 63, joined the Mobil Shipping Company and was there for 18 years and worked on oil tankers worldwide for 14 years. He then achieved his Master Mariner Certificate.

He then finished his MSc and

PhD in Operational Research at Lancaster University and then joined Liverpool John Moores University as a National Lecturer and retired recently from LJMU as Maritime Subject Leader.

As well as lecturing to professional students and others, he completed maritime research and led the development of ship simulation facilities at LJMU. During 2016-2020, he was also the Director of International Association of Maritime Institutions serving as Vice-Chair and then Chair.

Also in attendance at the presentation was Robert Court MP, Minister for Maritime and the Red Ensign was carried in by Brian Johnson, Chief Exec-

utive of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

It was the first ceremony in Trinity House since the beginning of Covid, and although there were still some restrictions, the staff made a real effort to make this a special day for the recipients.

One of the Covid restrictions was that recipients were limited to one guest instead of the usual three. Alan was accompanied by his wife Alison Wall. He said: "If there was one regret, it was that my 87-year-old mother, Margaret Wall was not able to attend."

On receiving the award last year Alan had said: "I was very surprised and I am very honoured to get the Merchant Navy Medal."

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Apartments plan could lead to 'noise impacts' for nearby residents

Report by **Henry James**

A SKELMERSDALE councillor has raised concerns on behalf of residents about proposals to build 60 apartments for extra-care living accommodation due to 'noise impacts' on those living nearby.

The plans are due to be constructed at the site of the former Toby Tavern Bar and Grill on Ashurst Road.

Ashurst borough councillor James Upjohn is asking for the application, which has been submitted by SEP Construction Services Ltd, to be called into the planning committee.

Cllr Upjohn has written the following in a letter to the borough council: "I would like to call in planning application 1997/0752 to be considered by the planning committee at the earliest possible convenience."

"I have been contacted by residents who have concerns about this development including but not limited to: Site traffic and construction noise impacts on local residents; Demolition of some of the buildings; and The height of the proposed building not being in keeping with any other building in the area."

Skelmersdale Hall

In the application all existing buildings on the site are proposed to be demolished apart from the Grade II listed building Skelmersdale Hall.

The plans state the existing Grade II listed building will be maintained and restored. It will contain a manager's office, care manager office, kitchen and bistro.



A computerised image of what the development will look like (above) and Cllr James Upjohn (left)

The building will be attached to the proposed new extra-care building via a new single glazed link as the entrance wing.

The apartments would be built in a separate building.

A Heritage Statement with the application explains the significance of Skelmersdale Hall: "Skelmersdale Hall, dates from 1712, although it has been much extended and altered, and its last use was as a public house, The Old Toby, but has been abandoned for some time."

It goes on to say: "The house is associated with a later complex of barn and outbuildings, which form a courtyard, and which largely screen views of the house."

"The proposal is for the demolition of the barn and outbuildings, and replacement with a three and 2.5 storey extra care residential accommodation, alongside the refurbishment and conversion of the grade II listed building."

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St Paul's Church's graveyard. Catherine Blythe's dad's grave is closest to the wall and 'not visible'

Upset family say dad's grave 'isn't even visible' due to overgrown grass

Report by **Henry James**

AN upset and angry daughter whose dad is buried at St Paul's Church in Old Skelmersdale, claims overgrown grass and shrubbery means his grave "isn't even visible."

Catherine Blythe and her mum visited the grave recently but "could not get anywhere near" their relative's plot.

Catherine said: "I have just been with my 81 year-old mum to lay flowers on my dad's grave and I am absolutely fuming, the whole church yard is an absolute disgrace."

"I have not been able to visit for a couple of months due to my disability and my mum has osteoporosis and uses a walking frame."

"It ended in anger and tears as neither of us were able to get anywhere near to my dad's plot. I have never seen it like this before. How is this acceptable? How has it been allowed to get in such a state and when is it going to be tidied? My dad's plot is closest to the wall and was not visible at all."

"It is a difficult enough time when you can only visit your loved one in their grave with just a headstone to talk to. So imagine how upsetting it is when you can't even do that."

A spokesperson for West Lancashire Borough Council responded: "The council are responsible for the maintenance of Liverpool Road Cemetery and St Paul's Church in Skelmersdale."

"The grass is maintained on a four weekly programme. Liverpool Road was last cut on June 10 2021 and St Paul's Church was last cut on June 10 2021."

New therapy to support people with dementia

AGE UK Lancashire is at the forefront of a new evidence-based cognitive therapy course designed to help people with dementia to maintain memory and mental functioning for longer.

Maintenance Cognitive Stimulation Therapy, also known as MCST, was piloted in 2019/20 through a 12 week programme for veterans living with dementia in West Lancashire resulting in positive outcomes for participants and their family carers.

Age UK Lancashire, who have a wealth of knowledge and experience in the dementia field, are delighted to be launching a longer programme of sessions within the local area.

Abigail Ellis from the charity says: "Cognitive Stimulation Therapy is the only non-drug treatment recommended for people living with mild to moderate dementia by the National Institute for Health & Clinical Excellence (NICE) and is proven to improve cognition, independence and well-being. We are delighted to be able to offer this type of therapy locally".

Abigail added: "The course is 24 weeks long and is based on a full programme of themed sessions

designed to stimulate cognition and new ideas and opinions. Participants will take part in a range of creative and musical activities as well as topical discussion, word and number games.

"Experienced members of staff have been specially trained to deliver a professional and engaging service and will be supported by dedicated volunteers. Group sizes will be kept small to allow for everyone to engage in group discussion and form close bonds."

"There are limited spaces available on the programme which begins in July. We have secured funding to heavily subsidise the cost of the programme and a discount is available for those paying upfront. This really is a huge step forward for the non-drug treatment of dementia and if it proves as successful as the Pilot Project did, we hope to be able to provide further courses in the future".

If you would like to find out more information or register your interest in the programme, then please contact 0300 303 1234 or email referrals@ageuklancs.org.uk.

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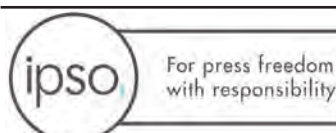
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MotorFest organisers left fuming after council call off event

Report by **Henry James**

THIS year's MotorFest has been cancelled by West Lancashire Borough Council due to the 'ongoing situation with Covid' - but organisers have been left furious and still want the event to go-ahead.

Members of Aintree Circuit Club (ACC), who run the event with the council, believe it is salvageable and are calling on the authority to rethink their decision.

The popular Ormskirk MotorFest was due to take place on Sunday, August 29 but has now been called off for a second year running.

A spokesperson for West Lancashire Borough Council said: "It will not be possible or appropriate to hold the Ormskirk MotorFest this year, due to the ongoing situation with Covid."

Despite this statement, ACC still want the event to go-ahead.

A furious Mike Ashcroft, chairman of ACC, and the clerk of the event, said the first he heard about the cancellation was an online story the Champion published about the decision.

He said: "We are calling on the council to rethink the decision. I think it is still salvageable as it would have been two months off. Of course, if there was a serious outbreak of Covid in the borough it would have to be cancelled."

"We do most of the work and would have run it on the day. We know how it works. We have been running the MotorFest for 10 years."

"They are throwing the responsibility for cancelling onto us. It looks like they can't be bothered and have just cancelled it. They have just taken the easy option, so they don't have to do any work."



A previous MotorFest event

Following the claims made by Aintree Circuit Club, a spokesperson for the borough council added: "West Lancashire Borough Council has been in regular contact with Aintree Circuit Club (ACC) and have had numerous communications with them about this year's MotorFest event."

"The challenges of staging the event this year were given much consideration, and raised early with ACC. This includes the possibility of on-going Covid-19 restrictions and high case numbers as well as the difficulties of organising the event at relatively short notice - planning would usually start in January for such a large-scale event and it has not been possible to do this preparatory work due to the unpredictable nature of the pandemic."

"We have kept in close contact with ACC about our decision and a communication was sent over a month ago to the organisation to confirm the Council was not in a position to be able to support a MotorFest event this year."

"We hope MotorFest will be back next year and we look forward to enabling ACC and other organisations to deliver this outstanding event, and other events, in 2022."

Motorcyclist was 'on his way to do a theory test' when he died in crash

Report by **Henry James**

FRIENDS of Josh Daly, who died following a tragic road accident in Ormskirk, say the 20-year-old was on his way to do his theory test when he died.

The incident happened on Friday, June 18, when the 20-year-old, who had worked at the Scotch Piper in Lydiate, collided with a signpost while he was on his motorbike, on the approach to the Four Lane Ends Roundabout from the direction of the A570 Ormskirk Road.

He suffered serious injuries and was initially taken to Aintree Hospital, however, he was pronounced dead a short time later.

His friends said his death "had left a big hole in all our hearts."

Gareth Tartt wrote the following on social media: "Losing Josh in such a tragic way and at such a young age has left a big hole in all our hearts. He would have turned 21 on August 14 this year but instead of planning his party his devastated family are preparing for his funeral."

"Josh loved bikes, working in the Scotch Piper many of you will have met and joked with him. He was on his way to do his theory test so he could get on the 'big bikes' when he came off his 125cc."

"The outpour of love received for Josh since announcing his passing has been overwhelming and the family take great comfort from this."

"We would like to give this much loved guy the send off he deserves. We are looking for as many riders as possible to escort him on his final ride and if possible give a small donation to his just giving page."

The bikers are due to meet between 12.15pm -



Josh Daly

12:30pm today (July 7) at Milestone Road, Kirkby.

They will then follow the family to St Mary's, Aughton and then Burscough Crem at 3pm. Afterwards they will be riding to The Scotch Piper to raise a socially distanced glass and celebrate "Josh's Day."

The family of Josh Daly have set up a JustGiving page to raise £2,000 to give Josh Daly the send off he deserves. They had an original target of £2,000 but now more than £6,000 has been collected.

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Members of friendship group, Ormskirk & Southport Oddfellows enjoy a walk on Southport Pier

Community group meets up for first time in more than a year!

Report by **Henry James**

MEMBERS of friendship group, Ormskirk & Southport Oddfellows, are celebrating once again being able to meet up face-to-face for the first time in more than a year, with a gentle stroll along Southport Pier in the sunshine.

The group has also just published its diary of planned upcoming social events, which spans the middle of July to the end of October.

In addition to day trips, walks, lunches, online events and talks, its regular meet ups from August will be subject to government guidelines.

This will include the first Thursday of the month at 1.30pm at Southport Coffee Afternoon, Central Club, Bath St, Southport and the second Tuesday of the month at 10.30am at Formby Coffee Club, Toby Carvery, Formby.

They will also meet on the second Wednesday of the

month at 10.30am at Ormskirk Meet & Chat, O'Brien's Tea Rooms, Ormskirk.

Ormskirk & Southport's Social organiser, Judith Catton added: "It's been a hard start to 2021 for many.

"For those who are ready to mingle again, we are offering a selection of different types of events. We'll be following all Covid guidelines strictly, which is why we are asking that our members and those who would like to try out our Society for the first time, to book directly with me.

"Fingers crossed we get to meet up. The company of others certainly lifts our spirits. We were practically skipping down the Pier!

"We are also acutely aware that some people have lost confidence over the past year; and we would like to reassure everyone that we are a relaxed, welcoming group. You can get involved as much or as little as you'd like."

To receive a copy of their new events diary, contact Judith Catton on 01704 545279 or email judith.catton@oddfellows.co.uk. Future events are also listed online at www.oddfellows.co.uk/events.



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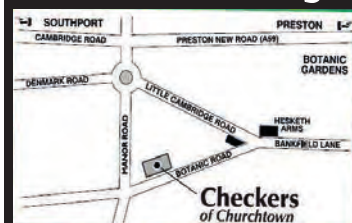


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Woman 'afraid to leave house' after unprovoked street attack by two males

Jade, 21, was punched and kicked during brutal assault on footpath

Report by **Henry James**

A SKELMERSDALE woman is too afraid to leave the house after she was attacked and kicked to the floor by two males.

Jade Francis, 21, from Tanhouse, was walking on the footpath from the Whitburn area in Old Skelmersdale at around 5.30pm to 6pm on Wednesday, June 23 by herself when she was assaulted.

As she came through Church Farm subway, the two males approached her from behind, punching her numerous times.

They then kicked her in the ribs before running away.

Her partner, Victoria Butler, told the Champion her brother was also assaulted in this particular area of Whitburn. She is calling for more CCTV to be installed.

Describing the attackers, Victoria said: "One was described as your typical 'scally' and the other had a brown logo on his coat. They were both dressed in black."

"Jade isn't the first person to be assaulted here, my brother was attacked there a few years ago and a member of the public has come out to me and said he has been assaulted there too."

"This needs to be taken seriously, people are getting attacked there day and night. There needs to be working CCTV there."

Jade has been left with bad bruising all over her face, a fractured cheek bone, a fractured jaw, a busted lip and black eyes.

Victoria added: "My girlfriend was a very, very confident person before this happened, now she won't leave the house, she's absolutely petrified."



Jade's injuries following the assault

"I had to ring 999 for the police and the ambulance because Jade was in a state. The paramedics asked Jade to go to hospital, but she was too scared. She went to the walk in centre the next day."

Lancashire Police has confirmed to the Champion that the incident was reported to them.

They said the attack happened at about 6.20pm near to College Way, Skelmersdale.

Dad dares to dream by penning children's book about nocturnal jellyfish!

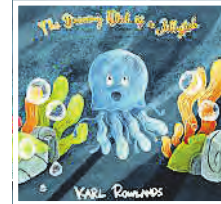
KARL ROWLANDS had no idea when he agreed to host a Zoom quiz that he would be inspired to write his first children's book.

But that is exactly what happened, and the author's book is called *The Dreamy Wish of a Jellyfish*.

Karl, 32, who grew up in Skelmersdale, said: "This actually came about during lockdown, I was hosting a Zoom quiz and so I was looking for some general knowledge questions, I happened to stumble upon a fact that jellyfish can't sleep because they don't have a brain."

"I had always wanted to write a children's book since my son Ryan came along and became an avid reader, he could recite *The Gruffalo* at age two, I've read him a bedtime story pretty much every night since he was born."

"The story centres around a little jellyfish who has never been to sleep,



Karl (above) and his new book (inset)

he spends all of his days wishing that he could fall asleep so that he would know what it's like to dream.

"But as he soon discovers, you don't need to sleep to dream, we all have dreams, and we can make them come true!"

"Growing up in Skelmersdale myself, there's often a stigma attached to the town due to it being less affluent that you can't go on to achieve anything, so I'd really like to bring the message of 'you can' to children."

Teen arrested after schoolgirl 'grabbed'

DETECTIVES investigating after a schoolgirl was grabbed in Skelmersdale have arrested a 15-year-old boy.

The 14-year-old was on her way to school at about 8.30am on Friday, June 25 when she was approached by someone who offered her sweets and then tried to grab hold of her.

The girl managed to wriggle free

and run home to call the police.

She was thankfully physically unharmed.

The incident happened on a path between Eskdale and Southway near to a wooded area.

A 15-year-old boy from Skelmersdale was arrested on suspicion of kidnap. He has now been released under investigation and enquiries are continuing.

More coronavirus vaccination sites opened in borough

A SERIES of new walk-in Covid-19 vaccination clinics in West Lancashire have been opened.

More people will be able to receive a vaccine in their local community as the NHS, GP Practices and West Lancashire Borough Council ensure as many people as possible in the area are protected against the virus.

Walk-in clinics started at Tanhouse Community Centre in Skelmersdale recently and have proven a huge success, with residents in other areas such as Hesketh Bank and Parbold being able to receive a jab in their local community.

The clinics are offering both first and second doses of the Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines, with second doses made available to those who had their first at least eight weeks prior.

Bookings are not required for any of the pop-up sites or vaccine bus and vaccines are available to anyone who is 18 or over.

Emma Robinson, Covid-19 vaccination programme manager for NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), said: "If you are 18 or over, please come forward to one of our clinics to receive either your first dose or the booster second dose, which gives you stronger and longer-lasting protection against the virus."

Details of the additional clinics are as follows:

- Wednesday, July 7 Coronation Park, Ormskirk, L39 3LB -10am-5pm
- Thursday, July 8 Riverside Holiday Park, Southport New Road, Banks, PR9 8DF 9:30am-Midday
- Thursday, July 8 Banks Leisure Centre, Greaves Hall Avenue, Banks, PR9 8BL 1pm-6pm

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Neil Manning (MD, Easigrass Liverpool) pictured with Tony and Mattie Rogers says: "I am full of admiration for the effort, dedication and commitment the team are putting in to achieve their goal and ultimately raise funds for such a fantastic community-based organisation. "The guys will be increasing their training this month ready for their huge challenge."

For more information and to donate please use this link: <https://www.justgiving.com/.../seansplace-500k-bike-ride...>

Tony says the money raised will help us to continue our vital support to the men who access our service.

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School given prestigious Artsmark Gold Award for teaching arts and culture

Report by **Henry James**

PUPILS and staff at Skelmersdale's St Thomas the Martyr CE Primary School are celebrating after receiving a prestigious Artsmark Gold Award.

Artsmark is the only creative quality standard for schools, accredited by Arts Council England.

It supports them to develop and celebrate arts and cultural education across the whole curriculum, bringing learning to life for children and young people.

In order to achieve their Artsmark Gold Award, St Thomas the Martyr CE had to develop their arts and culture provision to embed a broad and balanced curriculum.

The Artsmark assessor said that St Thomas the Martyr CE "has maintained an invigorating and engaging learning offer despite the pressures of Covid."

On receiving the award, Carl Roscoe, the headteacher, said: "We're extremely proud of achieving our Artsmark Gold Award. We are committed to delivering a high-quality arts and cultural education and a special mention to our hard-working Arts lead, Miss Pugh, who was very determined to achieve Gold."

Dr Darren Henley OBE, Chief Executive of the Arts Council, said: "I would like to congratulate St



Head boy, Joseph Dewhurst, with his prize-winning artwork he designed to inspire hope during the pandemic

Thomas the Martyr CE Primary on their Artsmark Award. Becoming an Artsmark school demonstrates that through offering a broad, balanced and creative curriculum, young people have the opportunity to develop character and resilience, increasing their knowledge, curiosity and skills that will remain with them through to adult life."

Man charged by police following street stabbing

A MAN has been charged by detectives investigating a stabbing in Skelmersdale.

Police were called around 8.40pm on Thursday, June 24 to a report a man had

been stabbed outside a property in Lancaster Crescent. He was taken to hospital for treatment.

Hayden Brimage, 23, of no fixed address, has been charged with common

assault, possessing an offensive weapon in a public place and Section 18 - wounding with intent.

He appeared at Preston Magistrates' Court on Tuesday, June 29.

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Martin Mere news

ADVERTISING FEATURE



Wildflowers Bloom at Martin Mere

There is so much wildlife to see at WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre at this time of year, but it is often forgotten that it is also an amazing time to come and see an array of wildflowers both on the reserve and as you walk through the grounds.

With more than 97% of wildflower meadows being destroyed since the 1930's it has never been so important to conserve and appreciate these areas. At Martin Mere, we have nearly 150ha of wet grassland meadows which hold some very interesting and rare plant species including: Golden Dock, Whorled Caraway, Tubular Water-dropwort and Fine-leaved Water-dropwort. We also have some stunning orchids which add a flash of colour to our grasslands species; such as early marsh and bee orchids.

The Whorled Caraway is a speciality of Martin Mere, which is the only remaining site in England outside the south-west to host this flower, which requires wet, unimproved pastures. In 1975, the plant was confined to just one of our fields. But, with careful management, the plant has very slowly colonised more fields on the site. The plants are currently flowering and a whole field of whorled caraway can currently be seen from the Gladstone Hide.

The Whorled Caraway derives its name from the way its leaves form a circlet - or 'whorl' - around the base of its stem. Like other caraway species, it is a member of the carrot family but unlike other caraways its seeds have no culinary or medicinal use.

Possibly the most attractive flower on site is the bee orchid, which gets its name from its main pollinator - a species of solitary bee. The flowers mimic the appearance of the bee, drawing them in with the promise of love. As the bees attempt to mate with the plant they pick up pollen and then transfer it to the next plant when they try and mate again. Unfortunately, the right species of bee doesn't occur in the UK, so Bee Orchids self-pollinate themselves. The structure of the flower allows pollen from the anthers to automatically drop down onto the stigma to ensure pollination.

A field full of Whorled Caraway can be seen from the Gladstone Hide and Bee Orchids are dotted around the grass banks which surround the Harrier Hide. Both species are currently flowering but to see them, you better visit Martin Mere very soon, or you'll have to wait another year.



Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what's on the reserve at the moment as well as all the upcoming events

Champion **LETTERS to the Editor**

Email your letters to:
editor@champnews.com

Provide the space to park legally

In response to a letter in last week's Champion proposing charging motorists who park on or block pavements.

I admit to being guilty of pavement-parking, however, in my case, I was advised by the local constabulary.

Having legally parked for years at the side of the road in my street, I set off to take my daughter to work, early one morning, only to discover my brakes had been tampered

with by yobs - an act which could have had dire consequences. It transpired that a neighbour had suffered the same treatment.

Having reported the crimes to the police, who came to investigate, the officers advised us to park on the pavement in front of our properties.

In their opinion, there wasn't enough space for all residents to park vehicles at the side of the road without causing seri-

ous traffic congestion in our street, as big wagons, road sweepers, even delivery vans to the nursing home at the end of our street, needed to have access.

In closing, I am convinced all resident car owners would park legally if there was sufficient space to do so.

Will our Council do anything to alleviate the problem? I very much doubt it.

A.G., Skelmersdale.

'Doctor's' opinion on the wearing of masks should carry a health warning

I love reading Letters to the Editor every week in the Champion. It's great to see the passion for our local community.

I would like to address the massively misleading letter from 'Dr John Piper' about mask wearing.

I say anyone who feels comfortable wearing a mask, wear one. Anyone who doesn't feel comfortable or health exempt, don't wear one but still use social distancing.

I've researched this subject and I can't find anything about the extensive use of masks having any kind of

health consequence. The kind of opinion from a 'Dr' which is indirectly encouraging people to not wear masks is damaging and not to mention offensive to all the people I've seen become very sick or die from covid. Ultimately, people only need to wear masks in a limited amount of areas anyway, like indoors or ill-ventilated areas. Mask use isn't a new concept.

'Asthmatic health and social care sector worker', Sefton

● I would like to reassure Dr John Piper, Aughton, that I have fully considered all the advice given by Government experts, the thousands of NHS staff who wear masks continually... and, by the minority of unqualified people who advocate not wearing masks.

I consider following the recommendations of the vast majority of the best qualified people to be by far the best way forward during a potentially life-threatening situation.

Of course, there are medical exceptions which should be, and are, catered for. It is everyone's right, in our free part of the world, to do as we wish within the limits of the law but putting other people unnecessarily at risk is not part of my DNA, nor is it for the vast majority of us, I believe.

As a 'doctor' of some subject, you will be well aware that if you look hard enough, you can find some form of evidence to support any argument.

'Chris' Crosby

Resist any attempts to privatise NHS

Things are now moving apace, in my opinion, with the move towards NHS privatisation and there is now a growing legitimate serious concern about the politically engineered loss of our precious NHS to profit hungry Americanisation.

This, I believe, will necessitate cuts in care for profits for the few.

The NHS could be turned from a public good to a profit generating mega business. This has been a long process over the past 25 years as too sudden a change would have alerted an unsuspecting public. Stealth, obfuscation and deception have been deliberately used in this change process of Americanisation.

We have all relied upon the NHS to see us through this tragic pandemic and we must not betray the NHS but rather support and protect it robustly and effectively. The government appears, on the surface, coupled with their charm offence in the media as if they are helping our NHS, improving it, when, in fact, I think the reforms will mean the antithesis.

Services could be rationed on a large scale and ramp up profit for private companies. We could see our NHS capacity cut down and many con-

stituencies could end up without a major hospital.

I think Ministers are planning to use the Coronavirus pandemic as a reason to erode the independence of NHS England including plans that would allow the Health Secretary to intervene in local reconfigurations of NHS services. Contracts awarded without the need to put them out to tender.

Language is always important and the government by using buzz words such as Integrated Care Systems and super hospitals are creating the narrative of progress in our NHS but Integrated Care Systems equal USA style healthcare.

Be warned, if there isn't a mass movement to resist the introduction of Integrated Care Systems that is the route our health services will very shortly be going down. The rich will buy the health services they can't get via the NHS, the poor will increasingly rely on charity.

My Dad remembers what it was like before the NHS was set up; and he tells me that people lived in fear of illness and not being able to afford treatment.

Joseph Welsh, Tanhouse

● Is a title all it seems?

Sometimes a letter gets printed from someone with a title that a lot of people will take as a good and valid reference. I refer to 'Dr' John Piper from Aughton.

The letter in last week's Champion may suggest to readers that a medical doctor is recommending that face masks are irrelevant, in fact can cause harm. I was shocked by this as it was new to me after all the advice nationally and locally.

I researched Dr John Piper from Aughton.

He is not a medical practitioner, as one might assume so any reader who felt they were getting researched medical advice should go with what the medical scientists and data of the UK and WHO are telling us, rather than one person's non-

● I was amazed by a letter published from a 'doctor' advising that, in his opinion, the wearing of facemasks on Merseyrail is unnecessary.

This view is contrary to Government guidelines.

I am no expert on the

medical opinion.

While Mr Piper is entitled to his opinion, adding the word 'doctor' to his name will make many people think of a medical person, which I am sure he is aware of. But relevance?

Retired nurse, Burscough

matter but I feel we should follow expert advice.

The publication of personal views purporting to carry scientific weight is unhelpful and could reflect poorly on the need for truth and accuracy.

Peter Barnacle

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St. Nicholas Church
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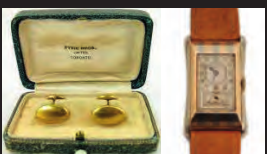
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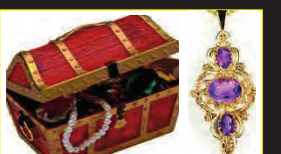
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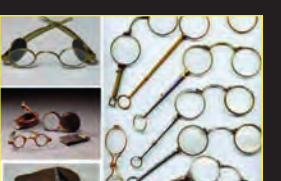
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Young footballer nets hat-trick of awards!

Report by **Henry James**

A TALENTED footballer has picked up a hat-trick of awards!

Josh Niblock was named student and player of the year for Skelmersdale United Academy.

The 18-year-old forward has been in the Skelmersdale United Football Academy for the last two years, which is part of the Education Semi Professional Football Academy (ESPFA) national system.

Josh was also featured in the ESPFA team of the year because of points he has collected while playing for Skem United Academy.

ESPFA is a unique study programme for 16-18 year olds. Running alongside existing youth set-ups at participating member clubs, the programme offers the best of each year's intake the chance to play academy and senior non-league football.

Josh's dad, Ian said: "We are extremely proud of Joshua receiving these awards and they are just reward for the hard work he has put into the last two years."

"Joshua has also had some recent experience with Skelmersdale United having been called up to the first team squad and making his debut in the recent Winsford Cup."



Treble success for footballer Josh

"Joshua is now in pre-season training with the first team squad and hopes to have more opportunities in the coming season."

His education tutor, Graham Hastings, added: "Overall, Josh deserves all the plaudits he is receiving and his work has improved because of effort and dedication."

Health groups to hold public meetings

PEOPLE living in West Lancashire are being invited to attend two local NHS decision-making meetings in July.

NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)'s next Primary Care Commissioning Committee (PCCC) meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 20

from 2.30pm until 4pm.

Locals wishing to observe the meeting, or raise questions relating to items on the agenda can do so by emailing wlccg.info@nhs.net by noon on Monday, July 19.

The CCG's latest Governing Body is also due to take place on

Tuesday, July 27 between 9:30am – 11:30am. Those who wish to observe or raise questions should e-mail wlccg.info@nhs.net by noon on Monday, July 26.

The agenda for both meetings will be published one week before each meeting takes place here: www.westlancashireccg.nhs.uk/

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ACROSS

- Aggressive, violent behaviour (5)
- A friendly understanding or informal alliance between states or factions (7)
- A mixture of sugar with water, egg white, or butter, used as a coating for cakes or biscuits (5)
- Without agitation or strong emotion (6)
- The friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers (11)
- Excessive pride or self-confidence (6)
- The principal and most anterior part of the brain in vertebrates, located in the front area of the skull (8)
- A narrow channel dug at the side of a road or field, to hold or carry away water (5)
- Bold and impudent behaviour. (4)
- To look sullen (4)

DOWN

- A succulent plant with rosettes of narrow spiny leaves and tall flower spikes, native to the southern US (5)
- A large seabird with mainly white plumage, which catches fish by plunging into the water (6)
- Cruel and oppressive government or rule (7)
- Excessively flattering or ingratiating; oily (8)
- Modern and recently developed (8)
- A small open-fronted hut or cubicle from which newspapers, refreshments, tickets, etc. are sold (5)
- With the addition of (4)
- A covering worn over the mouth and nose in order to reduce the transmission of infectious (5)
- Communicate information to someone in spoken or written words (4)

Week 27.2021

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS: Across: 4. Hose. 5. Shoal. 6. Tempt. 7. Snub. 10. Incommunicado. 13. Crashing. 14. Interview. 15. Available. 17. Headache. 18. Citadel. Down: 1. Musical. 2. Success. 3. Moment. 5. Scuba. 8. Fulfilled. 9. Plaint. 11. Observer. 12. Booklet. 16. Nail.

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Young ballerina tiptoes her way to the top after Royal Ballet success

Report by **Henry James**

A LOT of young girls dream of becoming a ballerina, but for one youngster from Ormskirk that dream has come true!

Abbey Turner, age 10, from the Kelly Shirley School Of Dance in Burscough has beaten off stiff competition from thousands of other dancers to be accepted on to the Royal Ballet Junior Associate Programme.

The gruelling audition process began back in March, with Abbey just recently being given the good news.

The Royal Ballet School is one of the world's greatest centres of classical ballet training, which for generations has produced dancers and choreographers of international renown including Dame Margot Fonteyn and Dame Darcey Bussell.

Abbey will begin her training in earnest from September onwards and will be coached by some of the best ballet masters and mistresses that this iconic institution has to offer.

Abbey's dancing teacher, Kelly Tobin said: "Whilst the pandemic has had a big impact on many people's motivation this was not the case for Abbey!"



Abbey Turner

"She has kept up her training every day since the pandemic began, using her extra time to practice and perfect her technique. Not once has she skipped a class or virtual training session. Abbey is an immensely talented little girl and I am incredibly proud of her achievements."

Abbey is excited to begin her new dance journey and hopes to follow in the footsteps of past Royal Ballet stars.



Maggie wins national beauty pageant

A YOUNGSTER from Skelmersdale has won a national title at a beauty pageant at the age of just four.

Maggie Heron, who is a pupil at Cobbs Brow primary school, won the Pure UK beauty pageant and now goes to Ohio, America to compete for the international title.

Her mum, Lauren Ormesher,

said: "She's done a lot of charity and community work over the last year as a finalist. She donated more than 100 Easter eggs to Alder Hey hospital and Skelmersdale Food Bank. She also raised money to help provide free school meals during the half term."

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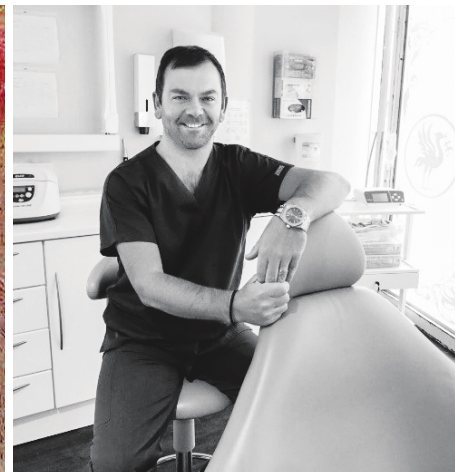
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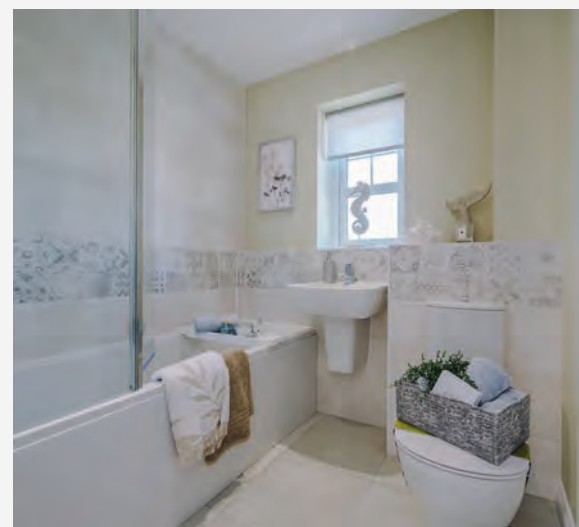
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Salary: £26,260 per year

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You can't miss us! We now have a huge mural on the side of our office celebrating social care and our amazing staff.

If you have been made redundant, using furlough, wanting extra income, or, if you would like to play your part as a community hero. We can help you. We are looking for people to join our wonderful team of dedicated and passionate Home Care Assistants to support people in the community this summer across Southport and surrounding areas. You will provide assistance with daily living tasks, including cleaning, shopping, preparing meals and personal care. NO experience and qualifications are required as paid full Care Certificate training

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Saint Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us, St. Jude worker of miracles pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless pray for us.

Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayers may be answered.

Say it for 9 days and it has never been known to fail.

Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude

Instructions:
Light your candle and declare out loud what miracle you need right now. Repeat this prayer 9 times for 9 days. Do this at the same time each day, never skip a day. If you do, you need to start over again. On the 9th day give thanks, and say "So be it." Give it up to Saint Jude and let go of any worry. You will see results in 72 hours. Never use this prayer to manipulate or control anyone. Use it only with the best intentions.

This is the most important part of the entire process YOU MUST pass this miracle prayer onto others. Some people publish it in the paper, others e-mail it to their friends, and others post it in a public building.

T.R

DEATHS

AINSWORTH DOROTHY ROSEMARY

nee Raynes
late of Crosby

Died peacefully at The Manor House in Barnard Castle on the 13th June aged 100

A much loved aunt, grandmother and friend.

Private cremation

Donations to UNICEF

Enquiries to Co-op Funeralcare, Bishop Auckland
Tel: 01388 603525.

DEATHS

LARKIN KEITH

**27th June 2021
Aged 68 Years**

Dearly loved Partner of Annie.

Much love Dad to Claire & Rachael.
Poppa Bear to Charlotte & Libby.

Missed by all who knew him.

LEATHERBARROW TERESA

**July 2nd 2021
Peacefully in hospital
aged 87 years**

Beloved Wife of the late John, loving Mum of Anne, dear Mother in law of David, loving Grandma to William and Jess and Matthew and Great Grandma to Oliver and Jude.

Funeral service and cremation at West Lancs Crematorium on Friday July 16th at 12 noon.

Donations if desired in favour of Cancer Research U.K.

c/o Cravens Funeral Service,
16 Derby Street West,
L39 3NH
Tel 01695 577200

DEATHS

SWAILES BERYL

**Peacefully at Hampton Court Care Home
on 3rd July 2021
Aged 84 Years.**

Much loved Wife of Ray
Devoted Mum to Carole, David and Nicola
Loving Grandma to James, Megan, Pascal, Simone and Ellie and Great Grandma to Archie
Beryl will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral service and Committal will take place at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 15th July 2021 at 11.00am. Family flowers only please, but the family are gratefully receiving donations for The Alzheimers Society. Due to current restrictions, attendance at the funeral is by invitation only please.

Further Enquiries to Moisters Funeral Directors, 25a Sefton Street, Southport, PR8 6SG.
Tel: 01704 501501.

Want to place a family announcement?
Visit champnews.com

DEATHS

SHAW JUNE ELIZABETH

**30th June 2021
Aged 88 Years**

Beloved Wife of the late Derek. Much loved Mum of Linda, Karen, Derek and Mother in law to Colin, Ray and Chris.
Loving Nana of Matthew, Eleanor and Jack.

Cherished great Nana of Spike, Eddie, George, Millie, Arthur and Milo. June will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Due to current restrictions attendance at the funeral is by family invite only but the funeral service can be watched live at www.obitus.com (Username : xare5538 & Password : 862397)

Service at West Lancashire Crematorium on Monday 19th July 2021 at 1:00pm. Family flowers only please but if desired donations can be sent direct to Parkinson's UK or Queenscourt Hospice.

Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR.
Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

OWENS PAMELA ZOE

**Passed away on 30th June 2021 at Southport Hospital surrounded by family following a long illness bravely borne
Aged 75 Years**

Dearly loved Wife of Derek. Beloved Mother of Nicholas. Loving Mother-in-law of Elizabeth. Devoted Nan to Liam and Ethan.
Pamela will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral service will be held at West Lancs Crematorium on Monday, July 12th at 2pm.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers to Queenscourt Hospice.

All Enquiries to Ed at Southport Funeral Care.
25/27 Shakespeare Street Southport PR8 5AB
Tel: 01704 547274

WOODS

BRYAN

**25th June 2021
Aged 91 years**

Passed away peacefully. Beloved Husband of Jean. Loving Uncle of Colin, David, Graham, Erin, Amanda, Tina, Christine and Sandra. Cherished Brother-in-Law to Margaret, Ted and Donald. Bryan will be greatly missed by all his family, friends and neighbours.

Service at Southport Crematorium on Tuesday 13th July 2021 at 1:00pm. Family flowers only please, if desired donations can be sent direct to Cancer Research UK. Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR.
Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

MOOK PETER LESLIE

**on 30th June 2021
Peacefully at Byng House Nursing Home
Aged 76 years**

Beloved father, Grand-father and Great grand-father

Funeral service and cremation will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Monday 12th July at 11am
Family flowers only by request
Donations if so desired, can be made to Byng House, cheques made payable to Prem Card Limited

Donations and further enquires please to M.Rushton Funeral Directors,
100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG
Tel: 01704 214118

LANE JOHN

**On 30th June 2021
Peacefully in Queenscourt Hospice
Aged 69 Years**

Loving Husband of Brenda. Devoted Dad of Joanne and Linda. Dear Father in law of Richard (Decd) and Mark and a cherished Brother of Sheila. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Funeral Service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Thursday 15th July at 11.00am. Covid restrictions apply.

All enquiries to Margaret Whitlam Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane
Tel: 01695 559868

DEATHS

BAKER LARRY

**On 28th June 2021
Peacefully after a short illness
Aged 76 Years**

Beloved Husband of the late Mary Baker. Dad to Gary, Debbie and Lisa and much loved Grandad of Jessica and Sam.

There will be a small private family celebration of his life.

He previously worked at local firms Scott Safety and Nacanco.

Larry was a life long supporter of Liverpool Football Club and will be much missed but remembered and loved always.

All enquiries to Margaret Whitlam Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane
Tel: 01695 559868

HORN IRENE

28th June 2021

Devoted Wife of Brian. Beloved Mother of Conrad and Annette. Adoring Grandmother of Leah and Joshua.

Irene will be greatly missed by friends and family.

Her life will be commemorated at the West Lancs Crematorium on Friday 9th July 2021 at 1 pm.

Family flowers only please but donations will be gratefully received to make children smile and can be made to POD children's charity via their website.

Further enquiries to Devonport Funeral Services
01695 731199

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BELL MARGARET

Margaret's family wish to thank the many people for their constant kindness and support from the time Margaret became ill in January 2021 until leaving us on 11th June 2021.

A special thank you to everyone at Birkdale Park Nursing Home for their excellent care of Margaret during her stay with them. Thank you to Revd. Richard Vernon for his comforting words and for conducting a lovely funeral service.

Thank you kindly for all generous donations.

Thanks to all at Neal Buckley's for their professional, caring and friendly service.

BROWN THOMAS TOMMY

Jean and family would like to thank their family, friends and neighbours for the many sympathy cards, flowers, kind messages and donations to the Alzheimer's society.

Grateful thanks to the Spinney care home in Upholland for their dedicated care for Tommy, to Astley ward Wigan hospital for care and support.

Many thanks to Chris who arranged a lovely service at St Pauls church Skelmersdale.

Special thanks to Margret and all the team at Skelmersdale funeral services for their care and support and providing a lovely send off.

Thank you to The Daisey Chain florists for the beautiful arrangement of flowers.

Thanks to the staff at Briars Hall Latham for providing a lovely venue to celebrate Tommy's life.

RIP Tommy you will be missed by many.

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(ANDY)**

10th July

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Keith.

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the family.

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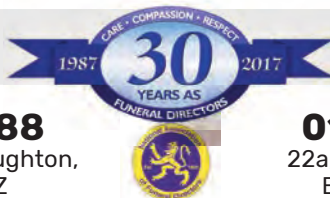
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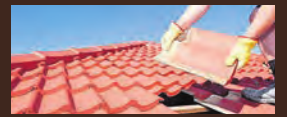


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Camper van crossed with black cab shouldn't work...but it might!



WHAT do you get when you cross a black cab with a campervan?

It sounds like something a bad stand-up comic might kick off his routine with, but this one ends with an answer rather than a punchline. The people behind the London taxi – the latest generation, at least – have turned the vehicle you'll know best for ferrying you home on a Friday night into something they want you to spend the entire week-end in. Preferably without a freshly ordered kebab on your lap and a shirt that you've managed to accidentally spill half a pint of Becks down.

Chances are you'll be familiar with the London Electric Vehicle Company's best-known product, seeing as they're increasingly popping up in taxi ranks across the UK, including here in the North West. I had a go in one a couple of years ago and can confirm that, even though most of us will never drive one, that it's a thoroughly decent steer – in fact, it's considerably more accomplished than the diesel-hauled cab it replaced. This one's all about zero emissions electric tech, clever range extenders to kick in on all those early morning airport runs, and a Smart ForTwo-esque turning circle, despite being roughly the same size as a Land Rover Discovery Sport.

But what you might not know is that LEVC also managed back in 2019 to transform its workhorse into a panel van, and in turn it's now morphed that load-lugger into a holiday home on wheels. All of which means you and three of your mates can hop in, hotfoot it to the Lakes, stick the pop-out roof up and stay the night. A black-cab-turned-van-turned-



LEVC has based its new campervan on the London black cab

campervan sounds like it shouldn't work, but I've a sneaking suspicion it might.

With all the uncertainty over foreign getaways and the prospect of spending ten days in a hotel of Boris' choosing should you pick the wrong destination, sales of campervans have rocketed over the past year. The National Caravan Council reckons that last August sales of caravans and motorhomes, in the context of a wider motor

industry that was reeling from the impact of lockdown, were up 40.9 per cent than the same month a year earlier. Most of those sales were coming from people who'd never plumped for a motorhome or caravan before – and I reckon quite a few would be happy to go for a trendy design modelled on a black cab rather than the usual biffed-about Caravelle or Transit.

In fact, there's only one thing standing in its way.

When you add VAT into the equation LEVC's new campervan will set you back £75,000, which is a lot when you consider that Volkswagen's California starts at £58k.

Or, to put it another way, it's a BMW M3, a tent, some decent walking gear and a crate of real ales for when you get to the campsite. I know which I'd go for.

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly



SEAT is offering more for the money with its tweaked Leon range

Summer shake-up for SEAT's Leon

SEAT'S given its Leon a summer shake-up, with the updated models getting more generous amounts of equipment and a lower starting price. Prices for the Spanish car maker's family hatchback now start at £20,405 or £21,555 for the estate version.

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Selected Pre-Owned Cars

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	SPECIFICATION	COLOUR	MILEAGE	PRICE
2018	Alfa Romeo	Giulia	Super Td Auto 2.2 Diesel 4 Door Saloon	Grey	33200	£18,495
2016	Audi	A1	Sport Tdi 1.6 Diesel Manual 3 Door	Red	17800	£11,995
2018	Bmw	420d	M Sport Auto 2.0 Diesel Automatic Convertible	White	35938	£24,995
2017	Citroen	C3	Flair Bluehdi S/s 1.6 Diesel Manual 5 Door	White	38000	£7,995
2018	Ds	Ds3	Connected Chic Purete 1.2 Petrol 3 Door	White	35000	£8,495
2020	Fiat	500	Lounge 1.2 Petrol Manual 5 Gears 3 Door	Grey	4200	£9,995
2016	Ford	B-max	Zetec Turbo 1.0 Petrol Manual Mpv	Black	2500	£9,995
2018	Ford	B-max	Zetec Navigator 1.5 Petrol Manual 5 Gears Mpv	Blue	23500	£9,495
2018	Ford	Ecosport	St-line 1.0 Petrol Manual 5 Door	Blue	16500	£14,495
2014	Ford	Ecosport	Titanium Tdci 1.5 Diesel Manual 5 Gears 5 Door	White	57990	£6,995
2016	Ford	Ecosport	Titanium Auto 1.5 Petrol Auto 5 Gears 5 Door	Silver	14000	£10,495
2017	Ford	Fiesta	Titanium 1.0 Petrol Manual 5 Gears 5 Door	Brown	15000	£8,295
2017	Ford	Fiesta	Titanium Turbo 1.0 Petrol Manual 6 Gears 5 Door	Silver	4100	£11,995
2019	Ford	Fiesta	Zetec Turbo 1.0 Petrol Manual 6 Gears 5 Door	Black	8000	£12,995
2019	Ford	Fiesta	Active X Turbo 1.0 Petrol Manual 6 Gears 5 Door	Black	4500	£14,495
2020	Ford	Fiesta	Active X Turbo 1.0 Petrol Manual 6 Gears 5 Door	Black	7200	£15,495
2014	Ford	Fiesta	Titanium 1.0 Petrol Manual 5 Gears 5 Door	Red	28636	£6,995
2020	Ford	Fiesta	St-3 Turbo 1.5 Petrol Manual 6 Gears 5 Door	Blue	13000	£21,495
2012	Ford	Fiesta	Titanium 1.4 Petrol Manual 5 Gears 5 Door	Blue	20500	£5,495
2017	Ford	Fiesta	Titanium X 1.0 Petrol Manual 5 Gears 5 Door	Silver	17000	£10,995
2019	Ford	Fiesta	Trend 1.1 Petrol Manual 5 Gears 5 Door	Silver	9500	£12,495
2020	Ford	Fiesta	St-line X Turbo 1.0 Petrol Manual 5 Door	Silver	35000	£14,295
2019	Ford	Fiesta	Zetec 1.1 Petrol Manual 5 Gears 5 Door	Grey	3500	£11,995
2020	Ford	Fiesta	Trend Turbo 1.0 Petrol Manual 6 Gears 5 Door	Black	5000	£12,995
2018	Ford	Fiesta	Titanium Turbo 1.0 Petrol Manual 6 Gears 3 Door	Blue	9200	£11,995
2013	Ford	Fiesta	Titanium 1.6 Petrol Auto 5 Gears 5 Door	Yellow	58000	£6,995
2018	Ford	Fiesta	St-line Turbo 1.0 Petrol Manual 6 Gears 5 Door	White	16200	£14,995
2018	Ford	Fiesta	St-line Turbo 1.0 Petrol Manual 6 Gears 5 Door	Grey	24000	£13,495
2013	Ford	Fiesta	Zetec 1.25 Petrol Manual 5 Gears 5 Door	Red	55000	£5,495
2018	Ford	Focus	St-line 1.0 Petrol Manual 5 Door	Blue	32000	£11,495
2003	Ford	Focus	Rs 2.0 Petrol Manual 5 Gears 3 Door	Blue	72240	£20,995
2017	Ford	Focus	Zetec Edition 1.0 Petrol Manual 5 Gears 5 Door	Red	31000	£9,495
2016	Ford	Focus	Titanium X Auto 1.0 Petrol Auto 6 Gears 5 Door	Silver	14000	£11,995
2020	Ford	Focus	St-line Tdci 1.5 Diesel Manual 6 Gears 5 Door	Grey	9200	£19,995
2020	Ford	Focus	St-line 1.0 Petrol Manual 6 Gears 5 Door	Grey	12474	£16,995
2019	Ford	Focus	Titanium 1.0 Petrol Manual 6 Gears 5 Door	Silver	11046	£14,995
2019	Ford	Ka+	Zetec 1.2 Petrol Manual 5 Gears 5 Door	Black	12800	£9,495
2018	Ford	Ka+	Zetec 1.2 Petrol Manual 5 Gears 5 Door	Blue	5200	£10,495
2015	Ford	Kuga	Titanium X 1.5 Petrol Manual 6 Gears 5 Door	White	30000	£13,995
2019	Ford	Kuga	St-line 1.5 Petrol Manual 6 Gears 5 Door	Black	15000	£21,495
2020	Ford	Kuga	Titanium First Ed. Phev 2.5 Petrol/ele Auto 5 Door	Blue	7598	£29,995
2021	Ford	Puma	St-line Mhev 1.0 Petrol Manual 6 Gears 5 Door	Silver	1700	£22,995
2020	Ford	Puma	St-line X First Ed M 1.0 Petrol Manual 6 Gears 5 Door	Black	7100	£21,995
2021	Ford	Puma	Mhev 155 St-line Vignale 1.0 Petrol Manual 5 Door	Silver	1750	£24,995
2016	Ford	S-max	Titanium Tdci 2.0 Diesel Manual 6 Gears Mpv	Silver	37200	£17,495
2017	Honda	Jazz	Ex Navi I-vtec Cvt 1.3 Petrol Auto 5 Door	Orange	11000	£11,495
2017	Kia	Venga	3 Auto 1.6 Petrol Auto 6 Gears 5 Door	Black	10200	£10,495
2019	Kia	Picanto	2 1.0 Petrol Manual 5 Door	White	15200	£8,995
2019	Kia	Ceed	2 1sg 1.0 Petrol Manual 6 Gears Estate	Silver	59690	£13,495
2019	Lexus	Nx	300h F Sport Cvt 2.5 Hybrid Electric Cvt Estate	Grey	24000	£29,995
2016	Lexus	Rc	300h F Sport Cvt 2.5 Petrol/electric Auto Coupe	Black	55000	£19,495
2019	Mazda	2	Gt Sport Nav+ 1.5 Petrol Manual 5 Door	Blue	11000	£13,995
2017	Mercedes-benz	C350	Sport E Auto 2.0 Hyb-petrol Estate	Blue	31245	£19,995
2020	Mercedes-benz	A200	Amg Line Premium Au 1.3 Petrol Auto 7 Gears 5 Door	White	2500	£26,495
2014	Nissan	Micra	Tekna Dig-s 1.2 Petrol Manual 5 Gears 5 Door	Silver	29000	£6,495
2018	Peugeot	108	Allure 1.2 Petrol Manual 5 Gears 5 Door	Red	7500	£7,995
2018	Renault	Clio	Dynamique S Nav Dci 1461 Diesel Auto 6 Gears 5 Door	Red	7000	£10,995
2012	Seat	Ibiza	Fr Tsi 1.2 Petrol Manual 5 Gears 3 Door	Green	61000	£4,995
2015	Smart	Forfour	Edition I T 1.0 Petrol Manual 5 Gears 5 Door	Grey	30000	£6,495
2017	Toyota	Yaris	Icon Hybrid Vvt-i C 1.5 Auto 5 Door	Blue	30860	£10,995
2017	Toyota	Aygo	X-cite 4 Vvt-i 1.0 Petrol Manual 5 Gears 5 Door	Red	20000	£7,995
2016	Vauxhall	Corsa	Sri Vx-line Ecoflex 1.0 Petrol Manual 6 Gears 3 Door	Black	37500	£7,495
2011	Vauxhall	Astra	Elite Cdti S/s 2.0 Diesel Manual 6 Gears 5 Door	Silver	35000	£5,995
2016	Vauxhall	Astra	Tech Line Turbo 1.4 Petrol Manual 6 Gears 5 Door	Silver	56000	£7,495
2017	Volkswagen	Polo	Match Edition Tsi S- 1.2 Petrol 5 Door	Blue	1400	£13,495
2018	Volkswagen	T-roc	Design Tsi 1.0 Petrol Manual 6 Gears 5 Door	Red	17200	£18,995



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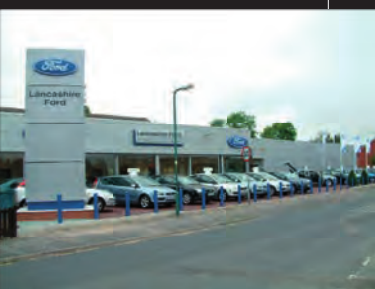
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60	SEAT EXEO 2.0 TDI SALOON, silver, full service history.....	£4695	10	PEUGEOT 207 1.4 TD DIESEL in Black '68; 2 owners, FSH.....	£2495
64	CITROEN DS3 1.6 SE VTI 16V D STYLE 44,000 miles, 2 owners.....	£4250	61	HYUNDAI I10, 1.2 5 DOOR in silver, 51k.....	£2495
62	FORD FIESTA DIESEL 5 DR, in silver.....	£4250	09	MAZDA 2 full mot, white.....	£2295
65	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LIMITED EDITION, 3dr in yellow, 54k.....	£4395	11	FORD FIESTA 125 3DR in silver. Later shape.....	£2250
62	FIAT QUBO LIFE 1.4 in red metallic, 36k.....	£4295	57	SUZUKI SX4 GLX 1.6 PETROL 4 GRIP 4 WHEEL DRIVE, in green.....	£2195
16	PEUGEOT 108 1.2 in met blue, 24k.....	£4395	09	VAUXHALL AGILA 1.2 5 DOOR in blue, only 2 owners, 51k.....	£2195
64	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 EXCITE SE only 44k, in silver.....	£3895	56	PEUGEOT 107 1.0 5 DOOR in black, only 35k.....	£2150
63	KIA RIO 1.1 2 PETROL, 5DR in burgundy metallic, 56,000 miles.....	£3650	56	CITROEN C1 1.0 VIBE in red, low mileage.....	£2150
11	FORD FIESTA 1.6 DIESEL ECONETIC 62K, 5 dr in blue.....	£3495	60	NISSAN PIXO in blue, 5 dr, 72k.....	£1995
12	CITROEN C1 VTR PLUS 3-dr, black, 45k.....	£3295	09	FORD FOCUS PETROL in grey.....	£1995
59	ALFA ROMEO MITO LUSO 3-dr, black metallic, 61k.....	£3295	53	TOURAN DIESEL, 7 seats in silver.....	£1995
13	HYUNDAI I10 ACTIVE 1.2 5-DR in black.....	£3250	2007	PEUGEOT 207 1.4 3DR, 61k, in blue metallic.....	£1795
62	HYUNDAI I10 in blue metallic, only 17k.....	£2995	07	FORD FIESTA DIESEL 5 DR, in silver.....	£1795
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61	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 16 VALVE ECOFLEX MANUAL 5 DR in black.....	£2995	57	MAZDA 5 2.0 DIESEL SALOON, in blue.....	£1500
10	NISSAN NOTE N-TEC 1.4 SDR, 31,000 miles only, SAT NAV, in red metallic, FSH.....	£2975	54	PEUGEOT 206 CC CONVERTIBLE in Lime Green with full cream leather.....	£1495
08	FIAT 500 TD DIESEL in white.....	£2995	56	CITROEN C1.....	£1495
62	KIA PICANTO 1.0 (NEW SHAPE) red metallic.....	£2895	56	FORD FOCUS 1.6, in silver, FSH.....	£1495
FULL WHEELCHAIR KIT			59	RENAULT CLIO 1.2 DYNAMIQUE in blue.....	£1495
12	FIAT 1.4 DOBLO MY LIFE, 24k in gold with ramp and full wheelchair kit.....	£4,495	57	FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC CLIMATE 3-dr in black.....	£1495
CAR OF THE WEEK			07	PEUGEOT 207 5 1.4 in red metallic only 2 owners.....	£1495
64	ALFA ROMEO MITO, 1 lady owner, full history, 34k in grey, full leather, sunroof and FSH.....	£5999	06	RENAULT CLIO, in black.....	£1295
AUTOMATIC OF THE WEEK			05	RENAULT CLIO 1.1, 3 DOOR in silver.....	£1295
14	MAZDA 6 SE-L DIESEL AUTOMATIC SALOON, SAT NAV, 2 owners, full history in burgundy metallic.....	£5,395	99	ROVER 416 SLI SALOON only 33,000 miles in grey.....	£1250
09	MERCEDES E220 TD COUPE Automatic in black, only 67k.....	£7995	07	FORD MONDEO 1.8 LX 5DOOR in black. Only 2 owners.....	£1095
12	MERCEDES ML 320 CDI 4 AUTOMATIC, in silver/gold, full spec.....	£6995	07	BMW 325 SE AUTO CABRIOLET in blue, full cream leather, 2 owners, fsh, low mileage.....	£90A
08	MERCEDES BENZ S320 DIESEL, AUTO SALOON, silver/gold, every extra.....	£6995	CAMPER VAN		
10	HONDA JAZZ 1.4 AUTO in silver, 44k.....	£4595	06	RENAULT MASTER VAN NEWLY CONVERTED in silver/grey, full mot, 80k.....	£90A
12	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 AUTO ESTATE in red.....	£4295	VAN OF THE WEEK		
11	HYUNDAI I30 COMFORT AUTOMATIC 1.6 DIESEL, 5dr in black, 60k.....	£3295	17	NISSAN NIVARO DOUBLECAB PICKUP TEKNA, MANUAL, 2 owners, full history in silver, full spec, 23,000 miles.....	£17,895 PLUS VAT
60	FIAT PANDA 1.2 HATCH ELEGANZA AUTOMATIC 5DR in silver.....	£2995	15	VAUXHALL COMBO MAXI VAN LWB 2 side doors, 1 owner with history, 79k.....	£4695 PLUS VAT
56	BMW 320 SE AUTO SALOON petrol, black, black leather.....	£2995	13	CHOICE OF TRANSIT CONNECT LWB HIGH ROOF, in white, 1 owner, indige van.....	£4250 PLUS VAT
W	VW GOLF AUTO ESTATE 35,000 miles, in silver.....	£1495	65	FIAT DOBLO VAN in white.....	£3995 NO VAT
99	MERCEDES C200 Automatic.....	£695	05	VAUXHALL VIVARO 2900 DTI LWB, high roof van in silver.....	£2695 NO VAT
			54	VAUXHALL VIVARO VAN, in silver.....	£2295 NO VAT
			14	TOYOTA HILUX AUTOMATIC Double cab pickup, in black, full spec and low miles.....	£90A

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| 06 | VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXI, in silver | 04 | VAUXHALL CORSA LIFE 1.2, in silver, 61,000 miles |
| 53 | MERCEDES C220 CDI, manual saloon, in silver | 03 | NISSAN ALMERA, in silver, 5dr |
| 06 | FORD FOCUS DIESEL TDCI ZETEC 5DR, blue | 06 | RENAULT SCENIC DIESEL |
| 55 | SUZUKI ALTO 1.1 5DR, blue, 70,000 miles | 06 | FIAT PANDA DYNAMIC 1.2 in blue |
| 55 | FORD KA 1.3 3DR, red 56,000 miles | 54 | CORSA in silver 67,000 miles |
| 06 | VAUXHALL CORSA DIESEL, 5-DR in blue, full MOT | | |

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